

Woman Ambassador Is Apple Pie Diplomat

Mrs. Eugenie Anderson Can't Speak Danish Yet, But Knows Her Pastry; She's a Pianist and Politician, Too

By E. H. SEIDL
 REDWING, Minn. (NEA) — Mrs. Eugenie Anderson hasn't learned how to speak Danish yet, but she can bake a mean apple pie.

Since the Danes love good pastry as well as anybody, this should give Mrs. Anderson a good start in her job as Ambassador to Denmark.

When she heard the news of her nomination over the old-fashioned wall telephone in the Anderson farmhouse at Red Wing, her hands were powdered with flour. Mrs. Anderson had been baking.

But the first woman ever to be picked by the president as an ambassador (previous feminine diplomatic roles have been as ministers) is more than a housewife. She is a pianist — and a politician, too.

Farmerette
 The 40-year-old Mrs. Anderson lives with her artist husband, John, and their two children, Johanna, 1 and Hans, 11, on a farm estate just north of St. Paul.

Her husband's father, the late Dr. Alexander P. Anderson, invented the process for puffed grain cereals (Puffed Wheat and Puffed Rice) and made a fortune. Needless to say, the John Andersons are well-off.

The news of her nomination was not unexpected. It had been in the making for several months, but nevertheless it caused a mild sensation in the household.

"I'm very happy," the attractive, dark-haired ambassador-designate said. "But I also think there is a great responsibility to be met."

"I have much studying to do for the job," she continued. "I do not speak the Danish language, and, of course, I hope to be able to do so as soon as possible."

Soft, Eloquent
 Well-groomed, cultured and poised, Mrs. Anderson speaks softly but her voice can rise to shimmering oratorical eloquence. She has a streak of determination, but a calm demeanor hides it, and softens opposition rather than antagonizing it.

She became interested in politics a few years back, when isolationism was the big issue. She was dissatisfied with her congressman, but instead of writing him sharp letters, she plunged into active party politics.

That was in 1944. She started at the bottom as a doorbell ringing precinct worker for the democratic farm labor party and became county chairwoman, district chairwoman and state vice chairwoman.

Demo Delegate
 Last year she was sent as a delegate-at-large to the democratic national convention, and also was given the still higher distinction of democratic national committee-woman.

She became one of the state's most effective speakers for the party, and campaigned for President Truman and Hubert H. Humphrey, Minneapolis mayor, who was elected to the U. S. senate.

Eugenie Anderson was born in Adair, Ia., of Scotch-English-Irish parentage. Her father was a Methodist minister. Her mother first sparked her interest in music with piano lessons when she was five. She went one year to Stephens college, Columbia, Mo., had a year on a scholarship at Juillard School of Music in New York, and then



HOUSEWIFE: Mrs. Anderson shares a family smile with son Hans, 11, and daughter Johanna, 15, in Red Wing, Minn.



POLITICIAN: Mrs. Anderson shares a political smile with Mrs. India Edwards (right) democratic women's chairman.

went to Carleton college, Northfield, Minn. Her major was music and her minor, philosophy.

Met Husband
 There a classmate's brother, vacationing from studies at Yale, was introduced to her. They were married in 1930. The couple first lived in New York, he to continue art studies and she her music. They have lived at the Anderson family estate since 1932.

Their home is a gray frame 12-room dwelling. It is set back from the highway about a city block deeper into the farm than the original house where another member of the Anderson family now lives.

John Anderson manages the farm and has a workshop studio near the house.

Mrs. Anderson has household help when she is particularly busy, but when she has time she and her daughter Johanna enjoy having the roomy house to themselves.

No Primer
 Mrs. Anderson isn't the sort of person who has regular "sessions" at the beauty parlor. Most of the time she "does" her hair herself.

She enjoys cooking and loves to bake. She admits she's especially fond of Danish rolls and pastry.

She speaks "a little German" and once studied French, but confesses she knows nothing of the Scandinavian languages. She will study Danish diligently on her arrival in that country.

She is happy to hear that Danish public schools have a good reputation. That's where Johanna and Hans will be going.

"I have no idea of when I might be leaving for Denmark," she said, "and I don't know if my family will go with me immediately or not. They'll be with me eventually, of course."

The children are "excited" about living in Denmark, although Johanna is a little uneasy about leaving her Red Wing friends. Anderson, quiet and retiring, had little to say about the appointment.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson visited Europe in 1937, but did not go to any of the Scandinavian countries or to England.

What about her life after she returns from Denmark?

Mrs. Anderson intends to go right on working in local county, state, national and international politics. "Only the participation of average citizens in political parties will keep democracy safe," she declared.

Flier Buzzes City, Beach Shoots Self

CLEARWATER, Fla., Oct. 28 (AP) — A 28-year-old pilot terrorized Clearwater residents for two hours with wild power dives in a stolen plane, then calmly landed and shot himself to death yesterday.

Police Chief George McClamma identified the youth as Samuel W. Watkins, member of well known Virginia family. Magistrate R. L. Baker pronounced the death a suicide.

Officials pieced together this story: Watkins telephoned a girl friend last night about 11:30 and told her he had decided to kill himself. Then he hung up.

Frantic
 Thirty minutes later frantic residents from virtually every section of town called police headquarters to report that a plane, flying without lights, was buzzing rooftops. Police cruisers spotted the zooming, diving plane and ambulances were readied for a crash.

Watkins hurtled the Piper Cub toward the Memorial causeway drawbridge and fishermen lining the span were forced to cover behind concrete guard rails. Three times the plane screamed across, once missing the bridge tender's shelter by inches.

Beach Buzzed
 The plane began raking Clearwater beach.

Finally Watkins flew back to the airport, its runways lighted by the headlights of police cruisers.

He made a perfect landing, applied his brakes and cut his run to less than 100 feet. Police heard a pistol shot, closed in and found him unconscious with a wound in the temple, a pistol on the cockpit floor.

He died in a hospital without regaining consciousness.

Stolen Plane
 Police Chief McClamma said Watkins had stolen the plane from a flying service at Clearwater airport.

He described the young pilot as of a "moody disposition" but who had never spoke of suicide until he phoned his girl friend. McClamma withheld the name of the girl.

ACTRESS STILL MISSING
 LOS ANGELES, Oct. 28 (AP) — Custody of the child of missing Actress Jean Spangler was awarded temporarily Wednesday to plastic manufacturers Dexter Benner, Miss Spangler's former husband. The 27-year-old actress has been missing since a date three weeks ago. Her purse was found in a lonely section of Griffith park.

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Teachers Not Baby Sitters

SEATTLE, Oct. 28 (AP) — The general public is much too inclined to regard teachers as mass baby sitters and superintendents as foremen, 100 Pacific Northwest county superintendents were told yesterday in the closing session of their three day meet.

Worth McClure, executive secretary of the American Association of School Administrators, said that the public attitude towards instructors was one of the chief reasons for the shortage of qualified educators.

New Light
 The reorganization and consolidation of county school districts, of which Washington is assuming the lead in the nation, "is placing a new light on the job" of the county superintendent, McClure reported.

"His job is no longer one of clerical work, but that of rendering professional service."

Yesterday, McClure, former Seattle superintendent of schools whose headquarters are in Washington, D. C., said that federal aid to education is inevitable, but for the sake of efficiency, the funds should be administered by the state.

DEAD JUROR OFFERS HIS SERVICES

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Oct. 28 (AP) — Westchester County Jury Commissioner Ralph Numford got this letter:

"I reside at Woodlawn cemetery. I was pronounced dead and buried in February, 1928. However, as you seem to be very hard up for jurors.

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It might be arranged for me to serve. Please contact St. Peter. The note, carrying the signature of a Mamareck man and presumably written by his wife, said in a postscript he just had received his third jury notice since his death.

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